

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An object holding device, comprising:
an object mounting ~~member~~ assembly having a ~~part-spherical base portion~~
subassembly and a mounting post ~~portion~~;
a support assembly constructed and arranged to support said ~~part-spherical base~~
portion subassembly;
a cover portion cooperatively arranged with said support assembly to capture said
~~part-spherical base portion~~ subassembly;
said support assembly including a piston member that is moveable in response to
fluid pressure to apply a clamping force on said ~~part-spherical base portion~~ subassembly
to clamp said ~~part-spherical base portion~~ subassembly in a selected position;
~~a spring return means for restoring said object mounting member to an unclamped~~
~~condition when said fluid pressure is not present~~
a biasing spring positioned within said base subassembly; and
a spring-biased plunger positioned within said base subassembly and located
between said biasing spring and said piston member for maintaining a frictional force on
said object mounting assembly sufficient to maintain said object mounting assembly in a
selected orientation when said object mounting assembly is not otherwise clamped in
position by the use of fluid pressure .
2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein:
said cover portion includes an upper body member and a lower supporting base
member.
3. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein:
said support assembly cooperates with said cover portion defining a separation volume
for receipt of fluid pressure.

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4. (Original) The device of claim 3, wherein:

said cover portion defines a fluid inlet which introduces fluid pressure into the separation volume to exert a force on said support assembly.

5-8 (canceled)

9. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein:

said support assembly cooperates with said cover portion defining a separation volume for receipt of fluid pressure.

10. (Original) The device of claim 9, wherein:

said cover portion defines a fluid inlet which introduces fluid pressure into said separation volume to exert a force on said support assembly.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein:

said ~~part-spherical base portion~~ subassembly contacts said cover portion at a location above the midpoint of said ~~part-spherical base portion~~ subassembly.

13. (New) The device of claim 1 wherein said piston member includes a concave cavity and said spring-biased plunger includes a convex surface that remains in contact with said concave cavity.

14. (New) The device of claim 13 wherein said mounting post is constructed and arranged to receive a set screw that is constructed and arranged to adjust the spring-biased force on said plunger by adjusting the compressed length of said biasing spring.

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